

NOTES ON CERTAIN TAXA OF THE COMMELINACEAE OF ASIA

G. Panigrahi

Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India at
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Morton (1966) in his revision of the genus Aneilema R.Br recognised four genera, viz. Aneilema R.Br. (1810), Murdannia Royle, Dictyospermum Wight (1853) and Tricarpelema J.K. Morton (1966). While laying down the characters for distinguishing the four genera, he re-defined Dictyospermum Wight as follows:

Erect herbs; stems simple; leaves sheathing at the base, entire; inflorescence terminal, flowers solitary or 2-3 aggregated in a short sheathing bract; pedicelled; flowers zygomorphic; petals 3, subequal, the upper one lies between the axis and the ovary; stamens 3, one of them often sterile with a bilobed staminode at least as large as the fertile anthers on the anterior side, occasionally 2 staminodes present on the posterior side, filaments beardless; capsule globose, trilocular, dehiscent, loculi single-seeded seeds oblong, convex and reticulate on the back. $x=14$.

Thus resuscitating the genus Dictyospermum Wight, Morton made with it seven new combinations at species rank. But two of them, viz. D. scaberrimum (Bl.) Morton and D. keyense (Warb.) Morton are not validly published, because he did not give "full and direct reference" to the basionym's "original publication with page or plate reference and date" either at pp. 435-436 where he made the combinations or at page 471 under "References". Further, one of the new combinations, D. conspicuum (Bl.) Morton (cf. Index Kewensis, Suppl. 15, 1973) had already been made by Hasskarl in Comm. Ind.: 22 (1870 (cf. Index Kewensis, Original vol, 1895). D. wightii Hassk. (l.c.: 19), on the other hand, is a superfluous name for D. ovalifolium Wight (1853); Hasskarl had proposed the new name for D. ovalifolium Wight because the latter, according to him, had mostly elliptic leaves, not ovate leaves. Of the remaining species of Aneilema sensu lato from Asia belonging to the section Dictyospermum, and not yet transferred to the genus Dictyospermum Wight, opportunity is taken here to propose two new names/ combinations, as given below.

Again, Morton (l.c.: 436) described the genus TRICARPELEMA but based it on the illegitimate name, Aneilema thomsoni (Clarke) Clarke, because the latter was a superfluous name for Dichospermum giganteum Hassk. (1870), which Clarke (1874, 1877) had cited as a synonym of "Aclisia (?) thomsoni, i.e. Dichaespermum giganteum Hassk. Commelynaceae p: 42 Aneilema sp. 11 ex herb. Hook. f. et Thoms. Dr. Hasskarl refers this plant to Dichaespermum under the impression that the barren stamens are alternate with the fertile ones"] Not only then Tricarpelema thomsoni (Clarke) J.K. Morton is an

illegitimate name but also is not validly published under Article 33 of the Intern.Code Bot.Nomencl.(1972). Tricarpelema giganteum (Hassk.) comb.nov. is herein proposed to replace T.thomsoni (Clk.) Morton. All other species of Dichoespermum Wight (1853) from Asia, including the three on which the genus was originally based by Wight, have been transferred to the genus Murdannia Royle (1839).

1. DICTYOSPERMUM SCABERRIMUM (Bl.) Morton ex Panigrahi, comb.nov. Commelina scaberrima Blume, Enum.Pl.Jav.:4 (1827); Aneilema scaberrimum (Bl.)Kunth, Enum.Pl.4:69 (1843); Dictyospermum protensum Wight, Ic.Pl.Ind.Orient.6:30, t.2071(1853). Syntype: Nepalia, 1821, Wallich 5218 (K, chosen as lectotype); Aneilema protensum Wall.ex Clarke in DC.Monograph.3:219 (1881); Panigrahi et Kammathy in Proc.Nat.Acad.Sc.India, Sec.B, 33:500 (1963); Dictyospermum scaberrimum (Bl.)Morton in J.Linn.Soc.Bot. London 59:435 (1966) sine relat pag. (not validly published). Distribution: Indian region, Java, Sumatra, Philippines.
2. DICTYOSPERMUM KEYENSE (Warb.) Morton ex Panigrahi, Comb.nov. Aneilema keyense Warb.in Bot. Jahrb.13:269 (1891); D.keyense (Warb.) J.K.Morton l.c. sine relat pag. (not validly published). Distribution : Papua.
3. DICTYOSPERMUM PHILIPPENSIS Panigrahi, nom.nov. Aneilema humile Merrill in Phil.Journ.Sc.Bot.13:4 (1918), non Warb.(1891). Distribution: Philippines.
4. DICTYOSPERMUM MONADELPHUM (Bl.) Panigrahi, comb.nov. Commelina monadelpha Bl..Enum.Pl.Jav.1:4 (1827); Aneilema monadelphum (Bl.)Kunth, Enum.Pl.4:70(1843); A.scaberrimum (Bl.) var. monadelphum (Bl.)Rolla Rao, Notes Roy.BotGard.Edinburgh 15: 183 (1964). Distribution: Java.
5. TRICARPELEMA GIGANTEUM (Hassk.) Panigrahi, comb.nov. Dichoespermum giganteum Hassk., Commel.Ind.:42(1870). Type: "Habitat regiones tropicas Sikkim, altitudine 2-5,000' s.m. ubi legit Hook.f.(hrb.Hook.f.et Thoms. Aneilema 11)"l Sikkim, Hooker 11, 3 sheets, holotypus et isotypus-K); Aclisia (?) thomsoni Clarke, Commel.et Cyrtandr.Beng.:46, t.31 (1874), nomen superfl. Aneilema (?) thomsoni (Clarke)Clarke in J.Linn.Soc. 15:121(1877); Panigrahi et Kammathy in Proc.Nat.Acad.Sc.India, Sect.B 33:500, t.12 (1963) nomen superfl.; Tricarpelema thomsoni (Clarke) Morton, Op.cit.:436 (1966) sine relat pag., (not validly published, nomen illegit.) Distribution: Eastern Himalayas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brown, R. 1816. Prodrromus Flora Novae Hollandica, London.
 Royle, J.F. 1839. Illust. Bot. Himal. Pl. part XI:403 (1840) & t.95, fig.3 (1839).
 Wight, R. 1853. Icones Plantarum Indae Orient. vol.6. Madras.